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PATENT
Atty. Docket No. EXT-023
(2457/21)

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NW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Lapidus et al.

USSN: 09/448,042

GROUP NUMBER: 1655

FILING DATE: 11/23/99

EXAMINER: Arthur, L

TITLE: *PRIMER EXTENSION METHODS UTILIZING DONOR AND
ACCEPTOR MOLECULES FOR DETECTING NUCLEIC ACIDS*

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office action mailed on September 28, 2001. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections made in the Office action.

Amendments

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 16, 17, 22 and 23 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 10 and 19, and add new claims 25-27 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for determining the presence of a target nucleotide, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) exposing a biological sample selected from the group consisting of blood, stool and urine to a nucleic acid primer capable of hybridizing with a nucleic acid, said

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